

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at The Folly, Sunday 19th November 2023 at 5pm

1. **Welcome:** The Chair Artur Muchow welcomed attendees.
2. **Attendees:** Artur Muchow, Lyndy Gilbert, Ken Crook, Gray Ardern, Carolyn Noel, Don Vincent, Jan Falconer, Lyn Moore, Cathy Willis, Joan Broadberry, Jason Patton, Joy Hick, Barrie Taylor, Jeff Cranston, Peter Laurence, Robyn Hull, Colin Bromiley, Tony Oliver, Josh Revell.
3. **Apologies:** Linda Rogan, Peter Rogan, Phil Rance, Lynda Chambers, Kay Williams, Sybille Ims & Brian Ims, Caitriona Young.
4. **Minutes of Previous AGM 13th November 2022:**
Moved Jan Falconer that the minutes be accepted. Seconded Lyndy Gilbert. Carried.
Business Arising – nil.
5. **Reports 2023**

PV Rangers Report	- Don Vincent for Phil Rance
Nursery Report	- Josh Revell
The Year in Review	- Gray Ardern
TAG Report	- Don Vincent
Treasurer's Report	- Lyndy Gilbert

Moved Artur Muchow that the reports be received. Seconded Gray Ardern. Carried.

6. Any other business:

6.1 Election of Committee of Management

Jan Falconer took over from the Chair and declared that the number of vacancies to be eight. She asked for further nominations. There were no further nominations from the floor. The committee comprises:

Artur Muchow – Secretary

Tony Oliver – Treasurer

Committee members - Jeff Cranston, Gray Ardern, Lyn Moore, Caitriona Young, Robyn Hull.

REPORTS 2023

PARKS VICTORIA RANGER REPORT - PHIL RANCE *(Delivered by Don Vincent)*

Parks Victoria Management changes

- Fire team have moved from Parks Victoria to DEECA (Dept of Energy, Environment and Climate Action)
 - 3 permanent Warrandyte fire staff
 - 6 Summer fire staff (PFF's)
 - All Fire staff still based at Warrandyte

Challenges

- Significant predation issues on rare and threatened orchids by Slugs and millipedes – probably due to wet years
- Continued program on the large expression of weeds post-wet years, particularly grassy weed germination and growth
- Rubbish dumping in the park increased this year
- Visitor pressures along the river – degrading vegetation, compliance issues, emergency access etc

Pest Plant Programs

- Peri Urban Weed Management Initiative. Weed control for this program commenced within the Warrandyte-Kinglake NCR, Boomers Reserve & Warrandyte State Park. This program focusses on achieving a landscape approach to weed control.
- Good Neighbour Programs
 - o Yarra Valley Parklands – Chilean, Serrated and Patto
 - o Spadonis Blackberry
 - o Koornong to Osborne
 - o Mt Lofty and JC
 - o Flora Cres/Proctor St woody weeds
- Mullum Mullum and Hochkins Ridge weed control grant
- Threatened Species/Biodiversity protection – Grassy Weed control
In-house weed program – all throughout the Middle Yarra – The usual mix - Chilean, Serrated, Pattersons Curse, Blackberry, Woodies, Capers spurge, Gorse, Briar, Disa, grasses grasses grasses!

Pest Animal Programs

- Annual rabbit baiting/fumigation program at select reserves through the Yarra corridor
- Fox control program in One Tree Hill & Rifle Range (contractor based) – occurred in Jan
- Deer control program (contractor based) conducted between Feb and June at Mt Lofty, Jumping Creek, Yanakie, One Tree Hill and Rifle Range – 85 deer removed.

Environmental/Threatened Species Programs

- Southern Toadlet program continuation. Conducted our own in-house monitoring and management – fence construction, cage installation, weir building and watering.
- Continuation of programs on rare and threatened orchids – Sickie Greenhood, Rosella Spider Orchid, Wine-lipped Spider Orchid, Woodland Plumed Orchid, Mullum Bird Orchid, Bronze Bird Orchid and Emerald-lip Greenhood

Planned Burning

- Sutton St – St Andrews
- Brackenbury St - Warrandyte

FOWSP related activities

- 20 TAGs scheduled this year. Woody weed control, grassy weed control, planting rarities and pollinator plants, reveg maintenance, South African Orchid anti-incursion patrols and thinning of burgan and cassinia for orchid and Eltham Copper Butterfly recovery
- Numerous autonomous TAGs
- Approx 3769 volunteer hours contributed
- Several hundred FOWSP grown plants installed in the park – some locally rare and threatened.
- Facebook articles and newsletter – invaluable community engagement and representation

Other

- Working closely with Melbourne Water to identify MW capital works programs along the Yarra River
- Application for MW Liveable Communities grants – Yarra Valley Parklands, Warrandyte State Park & Mullum Mullum Park

Staff Movements

- None

NURSERY REPORT - JOSH REVELL

- Some 40,000 plants have been grown this year for river planting as part of Melbourne Water grants.
- One staff member, Paddy, who was with us for 9 months left for greener pastures and we wish him well. Lynda Chambers' ongoing assistance is greatly appreciated.
- Thanks to Jan Falconer for organising the Market trailer rosters once again. More people are coming to the Nursery on the first Saturday of the month as a result of this activity.
- Thanks to all the TAG team and nursery volunteers as well as to the Committee for their support. Gray in particular has been amazing keeping up the hand watering of the Nursery which is very much appreciated.
- Thanks to Colin, Gray, Jason and Kelvin for keeping the water pump going.

COMMITTEE REPORT - GRAY ARDERN

As always, we thank Parks Victoria, particularly Warren Murphy and his team of Rangers - especially our invaluable Contact Ranger Phil and the ever-willing Col Bromiley.

This year we have seen big changes: Lyndy Gilbert, our treasured former treasurer has left us - she has left both Warrandyte and the office of FOWSP Treasurer, and has been succeeded by Tony Oliver. We thank Lyndy Gilbert for her many years of tireless, multifaceted service, and wish her well for her post-Warrandyte life - and we hope it is far less hectic! We warmly welcome Tony, and look forward to a long and profitable association with him. Thanks for coming on board, Tony!

Another big change that is taking place is Linda Rogan's retirement from the Committee and from editing the Newsletter. She does intend to continue her work in Frogland though, so we can be assured of seeing her regularly. Heartfelt thanks, Linda for the many years of producing a succession of beautiful, informative newsletters.

John Young has volunteered to take over the Newsletter. Will John's Newsletters reflect his enthusiasm for birds, as Linda's reflected her enthusiasm for insects? We look forward to them, whatever the new theme might be. Thank you, John.

Since Lyndy's departure, Sybille Ims has taken on the task of organising Thursday morning teas - including whipping up all manner of novel treats. Kay Williams has been Sybille's able and reliable offside. Thank you, Sybille! Thank you, Kay!

Uppermost in our minds at the moment is the unfolding Pump Drama. Josh and Col have kept the ancient pump going for decades, but recently it failed beyond even their efforts to keep it going. As everybody would appreciate, a reliable supply of water is absolutely essential for our nursery, so the breakdown of the pump was an emergency.

Col and Josh were first on the scene, soon joined by Jason Patton and Kelvin Watkins. Col did his Coldstream Cider Man impersonation, wading deep into fast-flowing water, and I understand the aforementioned men removed the pump from the motor and the plumbing. Jason then took it to a pump specialist to distant Mordialloc, where it was pronounced dead on arrival. The long and short of it is that a new pump was ordered from Queensland, and is soon to be installed. Needless to say we are extremely grateful to the aforementioned men - and also to the City of Manningham, for their contribution of \$1000 towards the cost of the replacement pump.

I've mentioned Josh, our nursery manager, a couple of times already, but I just want to emphasise how grateful we are for all that he does for us, in his cheerful unassuming way. I'd also like to thank Lynda Chambers, our nursery assistant for service beyond the call of duty.

As I say every year, thanking people is a thankless task, as I will inevitably forget somebody, and even if I didn't, there are always more people to thank for contributing to the great year that we have had.

TAG REPORT – DON VINCENT

2023 has been a very busy year for the Thursday Activity Group. By year end we will have conducted 51 TAGs, of which 20 were led by either Phil or Cam to many of the approximately 95 fenced enclosures in the WSP. Highlights are always trips to Pauline Toner Reserve and Morrison's in Eltham, Boomers Reserve in Panton Hill, the various enclosures on Fourth Hill, the Mullum Mullum area in Donvale, and recently added Flora Cres in St Andrews. We hope to get out to Spadoni's in Yarra Glen this coming week – new to many of us. Other areas regularly attended are Longridge Farm, Rifle Range, Walert Creek, and especially here on Pound Bend to maintain the many plantings and enclosures.

The TAG program is established to fit with the seasons and the weather situation. Typically, we plant in winter and early spring, and this year we were able to do some late plantings due to a wet October. Grassy weeding is typically late spring when they can be identified. Woody weeds and other maintenance and fencing is tackled in summer and autumn.

A particular challenge that has increased in recent years is deer and wallaby damage to planting. Eucalypts and acacias are particularly susceptible and the use of the taller black polyethylene guards is no protection. We are having to focus on planting in the fenced enclosures, and we are in the process of trialling enlarged guards to try and increase our rate of getting plants to maturity. We treat every plant we get from the nursery as precious, as we know the effort that has gone into their production. Hence, we are carefully planting and allowing for follow up watering, as well as increasing our focus on maintenance of previous plantings.

The TAGgers are a very enthusiastic lot, and energetically attack every task, especially some of the more difficult ones, I think. TAGs are very productive, but the task is increasing all the time.

Thanks to Josh for his guidance and, to both Josh and Linda for keeping us supplied with appropriately selected plants for our planting expeditions.

Much appreciation to Phil for his coordination and leading of the TAGs to the Parks enclosures, with interesting background information, and plant identification. Apologies to him for when we got a bit too enthusiastic with the weeding and our poor plant identification! Thanks also to Cam for his outings and chats, especially showing us hand pollination of rare orchids and explaining the symbiotic relationships of the orchids in their environment.

Also thanks to, initially Lyndy, and later, Sybille with Kay's assistance, for the delicious morning teas provided throughout the year. Woe betide a TAG leader who delayed morning tea after 11.00 am. They would be threatened with grumbles of a potential mutiny! Even when Sybille was away, she had prepared and dated food for the whole time. We did get a bit lost without her sometimes, and once we opened a dip container at morning tea only to find last week's rubbish in it – a banana peel and used tea bags!

TREASURER'S REPORT - LYNDY GILBERT

Many thanks to Tony Oliver for taking over the honorary role as Treasurer as Lyndy Gilbert has moved to Brighton East.

David Lovett, FOWSP Auditor for many years, was satisfied that the books are in good order for the financial year 2022-2023. The fully audited report is available to members.

FOWSP has 233 family members as at June 2023. Thirty families did not renew their memberships, so the income from memberships was around \$1000 less than the last financial year. There were no grants in 2022-2023.

FOWSP income for the 2022-2023 financial year was \$53,929, nearly \$37,000 lower than last financial year. Expenditure was \$62,684. Nevertheless, FOWSP is in a good financial position, with a retained surplus of \$118,817.

Thanks again to Pat and Mike Coupar for sharing the proceeds from the sale of their book "Wings of Change" with FOWSP.

Thanks to our wonderful staff and volunteers for their valuable contribution.